

circumstances so unusual, and marks of approbation so exceptional, that they cannot have failed to prove most gratifying to those whom it was thus intended to honour. The publication of this work is a credit to the naturalists of our country; and if it should prove that the number of really scientific workers and consequent purchasers is insufficient to defray the expenses necessarily incurred in the printing and publishing of an annual volume of this kind, then, as we have before maintained, there can be no more proper appropriation of the funds of the British Association than the voting of such a sum as shall enable the Record to be continued for the "advancement of science."

The contributors this year remain as before, with one exception: Mr. Spence Bate, who reported on the Crustacea, has resigned, and Dr. Von Martens has become his successor. He has been a most able and accurate analyser from the first, of that portion of zoological literature which relates to the Mollusca; and he appears to have most carefully and conscientiously executed the additional burden which has now been laid upon him.

On a former occasion we extracted from the 'Record' the short *résumé* of what had been written during the preceding year upon that most interesting fact, the migration and extension of the bivalve mollusk *Dreissena polymorpha* over Continental Europe. The present volume contains further notes on the same subject, and with these we conclude our brief notice of this volume, heartily wishing the editors continued success in their most useful "labour of love."

"*Dreissena fluviatilis* (Pall.) [*polymorpha*] appeared in 1864 in the Loire near Orleans and Tours, and recently at Nantes and in some smaller streams of France, and in October 1865 in the Rhone near Avignon. (J. Mabile, Journ. Conch. xv. pp. 108-110.) P. Fischer adds some other particulars, referring its appearance in the Département du Nord to the year 1838, in the Scarpe and Canal de la Deule to 1844, in the Rhone to 1856[?], and in the Garonne to 1866. The same *Dreissena polymorpha* has been observed in the kingdom of Würtemberg, in the river Neckar at Heilbronn, by M. Drautz, in the spring of 1867. Würtemb. naturwiss. Jahreshfte (1868) vol. xxiv. p. 44. O. A. L. Mörch persists in doubting whether this mollusk had not been living in Germany before 1820, regarding Sander's note (see Record for 1865, p. 217) as a sufficient proof (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. Feb. 1867, xix. pp. 82-84)."

Annuario della Società dei Naturalisti in Modena. Modena, 1868, 8vo, pp. 206, pls. 7.

THE third volume of this work has just reached this country. It contains the following papers:—

L. Gambari.—Description of the Quartz of Porretta.

C. Rondani.—Larva and Parasite of *Tischeria complanella*.—Diptera collected in South America by Prof. P. Ströbel in the years 1866, 1867.

L. Salimbeni.—The corpuscular moth of the Silkworm.

D. Ragona.—On the Ozonometric Coefficients of Humidity and Temperature.

G. Generali.—On a calculus from the Urinary Bladder of an Ox.

A. Ghiselli.—On the successful application of local Anæsthesia in a case of Lameness in a Horse caused by Rheumatism.

G. Grimelli.—Meteorological method of foreseeing and predicting Aqueous Meteors.

F. Coppi.—Notes upon some Crystallized Fossils and upon the locality in which they are found in the Modena district.

G. Canestrini.—Researches on the Labroids of the Mediterranean.—On some ancient Skulls found in the districts of the Trentino and Venice.

P. Bonizzi.—On the Reproduction of *Pholeus phalangoides*, Walck.

G. Mayr.—Formicidæ novæ Americanæ collectæ a Prof. P. de Ströbel.

E. Stöchr.—Some Observations on the Natural History of Shelly Clays.

G. Canestrini.—New Italian Arachnida.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Considerations drawn from the study of Mole-Crickets.

By SAMUEL H. SCUDDER.

Mr. S. H. SCUDDER stated that he had recently been studying the mole-crickets with a view to their classification, and found that they were naturally divisible into two groups. For one he retained the name of *Gryllotalpa*, under which all the species had formerly been grouped; to the other he applied that of *Scapteriscus*. These two groups were separated by the following characteristics.

In *Scapteriscus* the posterior margin of the sternum of the eighth abdominal segment of the ♂ is produced into a stout prominent central tooth; in *Gryllotalpa* the margin is entire.

The mesosternal ridge of *Gryllotalpa* is prominent, and almost equally so throughout; that of *Scapteriscus* is never prominent on the anterior half of the segment, and is often limited to the posterior half, or is even obsolescent.

The fore trochanter of *Scapteriscus* is large; the free portion almost always equals the tibial dactyl in length, and is of about the same size at the tip as at the base; that of *Gryllotalpa* is proportionally small, seldom exceeding half the length of the tibial dactyl; the form is cultrate or lenticular.

Scapteriscus is furnished with only two fore tibial dactyls, both of which are moveable; *Gryllotalpa* has two moveable dactyls and a second pair which are immovable.

With but few exceptions the hind femora of *Scapteriscus* more than equal the pronotum in length, while in *Gryllotalpa* they are always shorter than the pronotum.